

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 remain in the application. Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 have been amended and claims 1, 4 and 6 are in independent form.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Usui et al. (USPN 5,947,511) in view of Takeuchi et al. (USPN 6,136,249).

However, the Examiner has indicated that claim 2-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

First, Applicant has amended independent 1 to include all of the limitations of allowable claim 2. Claim 3 has been amended to properly depend from claim 1.


Second, allowable claim 4 depends from independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant has amended and rewritten allowable claim 4 in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Allowable claim 5 remains dependent on claim 4.

Finally, allowable claim 6 also depends from independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant has amended and rewritten allowable claim 6 in independent form to include all of the limitations of base claim 1. Allowable claim 7 remains dependent on claim 6.

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Amdt dated September 20, 2004
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Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in condition for more favorable consideration and Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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